



– For Immediate Release –

Tuesday, July 29, 2008

IIMPACT detectives investigate drop house in the West Valley
23 victims rescued, seven human smugglers arrested

On Tuesday June 29th, IIMPACT Detectives received information about a possible drop house located at 4604 N. 111th Glen Way in Phoenix where UDA's (undocumented aliens) were being beaten and held for ransom.

This information led to a traffic stop at 107th Avenue and Camelback that resulted in the arrest of two human smugglers. At 1:00 p.m., the Arizona Department of Public Safety Special Operations Unit (SOU) made entry and discovered 23 UDA's inside the house. At least 5 suspected human smugglers tried to flee through the back yard but were apprehended. IIMPACT detectives found weapons in the home and a small utility room that had been converted to a "phone call room" where the UDA's were being forced to call friends or family members pleading for money to win their freedom. The actual amount of money varied per victim.

All of the victims are male. They had been held in a fortified second floor room in the house with no access to windows. It's not immediately clear how long they had been in the home.

IIMPACT (Illegal Immigration Prevention & Apprehension Co-op Team) was formed almost a year ago. It is a multi-agency project managed by GIITEM of the Arizona Department of Public Safety (DPS) that is designed to address rising crime associated with illegal immigration. IIMPACT is comprised of personnel from DPS, Phoenix Police, ICE and the Arizona Fraudulent Identification Task Force (AFIT). As the name implies, local, state and federal police agencies combine forces to impact international human smuggling organizations operating in Arizona.

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